him break Skogan's head[7] at the court gate, when
he was a crack[8], not thus high: and the very same

7 — SKOGAN'S head —] Who Skogan was, may be understood
from the following passage in The Fortunate Isles, a masque, by
Ben Jonson, 1626:

«---Methinks you should enquire now after *Skelton*,
(And master *Scogan*.
(— *Scogan?* what was he?
* Oh, a fine gentleman, and a master of arts
* Of *Henry the Fourth's times*, that made disguises
* For the king's sons, and writ in ballad royal
* Daintily well!" &c.

Among the works of Chaucer is a poem called "*Scogan* unto
the Lordes and Gentilmen of the Kinge's House." STEEVENS.

In the written copy, (says the editor of Chaucer's Works, 1598,)
the title hereof is thus: "Here followethe a morall ballade to the
Prince, now Prince Henry, the Duke of Clarence, the Duke of
Bedford, the Duke of Gloucester, the kinges sons, by *Henry Sco-
gan*, at a supper among the merchants in the vintrey at London,
in the house of Lewis John." The purport of the ballad is to dis-
suade them from spending their youth *folily."

John Skogan, who is said to have taken the degree of master of
arts at Oxford, "being (says Mr. Warton) an excellent mimick,
and of great pleasantry in conversation, became the favourite buf-
foon of the court of King Edward IV." Bale and Tanner have
confounded him with *Henry Scogan*; if indeed they were distinct
persons, which I doubt. The compositions which Bale has attri-
buted to the writer whom he supposes to have lived in the
time of Edward IV. were written by the poet of the reign of
Henry IV. which induces me to think that there was no *poet* or
master of arts of this name, in the time of Edward. There might
then have been a jester of the same name. *Scogan's* Jests were
published by Andrew Borde, a physician in the reign of Henry VIII.
They were entered in the Stationers' books in 1565, by Thomas
Colwell: and were probably published in that year. Shakspeare
had probably met with this book; and as he was very little scru-
pulous about anachronisms, this person, and not *Henry* Scogan,
the poet of the time of Henry IV. may have been in his thoughts:
I say *may*; for it is by no means certain, though the author of Re-
marks on the last edition of Shakspeare, &c. has

asserted it with that confidence which distinguishes his observations.

Since this note was written, I have observed that Mr. Tyrwhitt agrees with me in thinking that there was no poet of the name of Scogan in the time of King Edward IV. nor any ancient poet of that name but *Henry Scogan*, Master of Arts, who lived in the time of King Henry IV. and he urges the same argument that I